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50X1

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1. Production of auto spare parts [REDACTED] was done on the basis of work requests and contracts. Those employees directly engaged in production were paid by the hour. In 1952, hourly wages for such workers was from 28 to 38 crowns per hour; in 1953 they amounted to from 20 to 30 crowns per hour. Those who worked in the tool shop, in the maintenance shop, who worked as inspectors, and who worked in storerooms were paid from 15 to 35 crowns per hour in 1953. White collar workers [REDACTED] were paid from 1,500 to 5,000 crowns per month. This included the plant manager, production chief, and foremen, all of whom had a basic wage and in addition received bonuses on the basis of to what extent the plan was fulfilled. I do not know just how much they were paid, but the security officer, members of the plant militia, CP cell chairman, and chairman of the plant council also received extra bonuses. A member of the plant militia told me that he received a daily wage of 300 crowns.
2. Some of the benefits received by workers [REDACTED] were as follows:
- Medical service was offered at reduced rates. By Czechoslovak standards, the medical service was not too bad. Doctors were ordered, however, to take only so many patients per day, otherwise face punishment. They could only treat patients with certain ailments and with a certain temperature.
 - Meals in the shop dining hall were also offered at reduced rates, but the food was not good. A price of eight crowns was charged per meal.
 - Allowances were handed out once a year for a pair of shoes. This was inadequate, since a pair of shoes did not last more than six months.
 - All members of the ROH (Revolutionary Trade Union Movement) were theoretically entitled to a vacation allowance once a year, but only those who were classed as "the best workers" or who had friends in the administration office got the allowance. Vacations lasted either

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7 or 14 days, a 7 day vacation costing the worker 500 crowns per person.

3. Deductible from a person's salary were taxes, sickness insurance, fees for the ROH, and CP fees if a person was a CP member. For example, a worker paid 5,800 crowns a month received 5,000 crowns after all deductions, if he was married and had no children. With the same salary, a single man drew about 4,800 crowns. For each child, the worker received an additional 150 crowns quarterly. 50X1

4. [REDACTED]

meet. [REDACTED] got a job helping to make shoes in a small plant. From both jobs, we were able to save a total of 3,500 crowns over a period of about five months. Such conditions precluded participating in any cultural activities or buying anything that was not absolutely necessary.

5. Comments on the cost of living on the rationed market:

- a. Since about 1 January 1953, the monthly ration of sugar was 1.2 kg. for an employed person such as myself. My wife, who was not working, received a monthly ration of only 500 g. Prior to 1 January 1953, both my wife and I received the same ration, 1.5 kg. per month. The change in ration, I believe, was to encourage people to take jobs in industry.

- b. Since 1 January 1953, the monthly ration of flour was as follows:

- (1) Coarse flour, such as that used in making noodles, 1.5 kg.; my wife got 1 kg.

- (2) Fine flour, such as that used in baking white rolls; my wife and I received the same as far as the ration coupons were concerned, but [REDACTED] 50X1
I received a supplemental ration of about two kilograms per month, making a total of five kilograms of fine flour for me for one month. This supplemental allowance was given to workers from all factories, but there were three categories of work, for which different amounts of supplemental rations were allowed. Laborers, very heavy laborers [REDACTED] and then those persons who worked in coal mines and steel mills, who received the most of all.

- c. When we left [REDACTED] any eggs on ration. They had been taken off our ration cards in about November or December of 1952. Prior to that, I received four eggs per month, and my [REDACTED] 50X1
Children were still allowed a ration of eggs, but I'm not sure just how many, since it depended on age. The age groups were: up to 3 years old; 3 to 6, 6 to 14, and 14 to 18. Those older than 18 were no longer considered children.

- d. Up until about the end of 1952, women received a ration of one 100-g. cake of toilet soap every three months. Men received no ration of toilet soap. My wife and I received 100 g. of laundry soap per month. [REDACTED] there has been no toilet soap rationed to anyone. Rations of laundry soap remained the same. It was always available on ration, and although the amount was small, we managed to make it do, since we sent our laundry out. Before 1953, I was able to get one stick of shaving soap per month, two inches long and one inch in diameter. Since the first of this year, there has been no such ration.

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- e. My wife and I were each allowed one-eighth of a liter of watery milk per day; children were allowed more. There was no distinction between working and non-working adults with regard to the milk ration. This was one of the few items of which the ration did not change in late 1952 or early 1953. Milk cost 4.40 crowns per liter.
 - f. Before November 1952, and as a worker, I received a ration of 250 g. of butter a month; my wife 200 g. Since then, however, there has been no ration at all.
 - g. I received about 1½ kg. of meat per month (I cannot recall exactly); my wife about 1.2 kg. The ration was a little larger before it was decreased in late 1952. In March 1953, one could buy a ration of meat in beef, but pork was scarce. Pork could only be purchased on a so-called "percentage basis", which meant that if a person bought one kilogram of beef, one was entitled to 100 g. of pork. There wasn't much one could do with such a small amount of pork, and the butcher was not supposed to sell pork separately. If the butcher, however, was your friend, he gave you a receipt stating that you had 100 g. of pork due you. The following month, after you were due for another 100 g. of pork, you could purchase 200 g., say, two pork cutlets. When my wife bought meat, the weight included bones, and ration coupons had to be surrendered for the bone weight also. If meat without bones was bought, extra ration coupons were surrendered. When she bought 700 g. of beef without bones, she had to surrender meat ration coupons for one kilogram of meat. Liver, and similar viscera were sold at full weight, but were quite scarce. Bones were scarce, and meat had to be bought in order to get bones. People with dogs had a hard time feeding them. We owned a small Scottish terrier, and when we appeared in public places with him, people would look at us with resentment. We often overheard the remark "why don't they have children instead?" (Taxes on dogs were high. We paid a yearly tax of 1,200 crowns. This was called a "luxury tax".)
 - h. I received about 400 g. of lard a month; my wife about 350 g. We both had received more before the decrease in late 1952. When lard was unavailable, we bought margarine - about 750 g. per month for both of us.
 - i. Potatoes were usually available sometime during the month, although very irregularly. Sometimes a store received 500 kg. one week and sold them all the same week, after which there were none available. In March 1953, our ration was six kilograms per person, which was enough for myself and my wife. Some people, however, found this insufficient. In February 1953, the ration amounted to five kilograms per person.
 - j. Vegetables and fruits were not rationed. Onions were generally plentiful at the beginning of 1953. They were scarce during 1952. Cabbage, carrots, and spinach have been unavailable since the fall of 1952. Oranges and other popular fruits were for sale only around Christmas time at 120 crowns a kilogram. Children did not know what bananas were. Apples were also on sale around the holiday season and one had to stand in a long line to buy them. Pineapples were never on the market. When apples went on sale in Prague, long queues formed immediately. After standing in line for about a half-hour, the sales clerk suddenly announced that there were no more. This was most demoralizing.
6. Following are listed some of the items that were becoming increasingly hard to get on the free market and their cost, as of about 20 March 1953: (Prices are quoted in pre-reform crowns per kilogram, unless otherwise stated.)

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offee	1,500 (Not available)
ea	1,800 (Available)
ocoa	800 (Not available)
utter	450 (Not available)
eggs	9½, 10, and 10½ crowns per egg (available)
pples	35 (Not available)
ranges	120 (Not available)
ard	450 (Available)
lam	500 (Available)
ork	300 (Available)
Beef	200 (Available)
Hungarian salami	1,000 (Available)
Plain salami	220, 250, 350 (Available)
Pork sausage	220 (Available)
Frankfurters	250 (Available)
Bread	20 (Available)
Milk	12 (liter) (Becoming scarce)
Jam	60 per one-half kilogram (Scarce)
Onions	20 (Available)
Potatoes	6 (Available)
Garlic	75 (Available)
Womens' hosiery	800, 1,000, 1,200 (Available; poor quality)
Material bought from bolts for clothing	1,500-3,000 per meter (Irregularly available and poor quality)
Pajamas	1,500 a pair (Available)
Shoes	2,000-3,500 a pair (Available)
Ski shoes	4,000-6,500 a pair (Available)
Soap	18 a bar
Swiss watches	18,000 crowns (Not available)
Russian watches	4,000-6,500 (Available)
Cigarettes	1, 1½, 2, 3, 3½ crowns per cigarette (Available)

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ings; when the customer supplied the gold, the charge was 2,000 crowns for making the ring.

Material for making curtains	1,200-1,500-2,000 crowns per meter (Available)
Rum	440 per liter (Available)
Various liquors	300,500,600, 800 per 3/4 liter bottle (Available)
Champagne	2,200 per liter (Available)
Womens' handbags	1,500-1,800 (Available)
Womens' handbags, made of nylon	2,000-2,500 (Available)
Angora sweaters	2,200

7. Shortages on the free market:

a. Sugar: in March 1953, sugar was not available on the free market, either in Prague or in the rural areas. This shortage particularly angered the population, since everyone knew that Czechoslovakia had always been a big sugar producer. The general comment was that most of the sugar was being sent to East Germany and the Soviet Union.

b. Butter: butter was virtually unavailable anywhere in Prague in March 1953, and since it was common knowledge that Prague was always better supplied with food commodities than anywhere else, it was concluded that it was unavailable all over Czechoslovakia. Only a small ration could be purchased for children. (There was no ration for adults.) Even farmers had no butter. They had such large quotas of milk to deliver that they had nothing left over to make butter from.

my wife [redacted] ours who lived about 100 km. from Prague. They served us black coffee and bread with no butter. They explained that they were required to turn over so many liters of whole milk that they had none left for themselves. The past season had been a dry one and they had little feed for their stock, resulting in low milk production, but the milk quota had to be met regardless. On the free market, milk cost 12 crowns per liter (March 1953). This was expensive, since I earned a "good" wage of 25 crowns per hour. The milk resembled thin water, with no fat content.

c. Eggs: eggs were unavailable on the free market during September, October, November, and December 1952. In January, February, and March 1953, they were available at the exorbitant price of 10 crowns apiece.

8. Another thing that seriously affected the morale of the citizens around Prague (and I'm sure other cities), was the lack of electrical current. The current was switched off from homes when it was more needed for operating factories. For example, factories started running at 0600 hours during winter. People getting up to go to work at other jobs got up only to find that the current had been cut off. A petroleum lamp had to be kept handy. The districts most affected by this curtailment were Prague II and III. In addition, these sections were without current sometimes during the middle of the day and during the evening. Street lights were turned off on one side of the street at night. Our street, Smecky, near the center of Prague, was lit with gas lights. During the winter of 1952, I recall seeing the entire sections of Prague-Smichov (XVI) without any lights at all - all equipped with electric lighting facilities.

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